

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A method for obtaining isolated or cultured antigen presenting cells wherein the expression of one or more target gene(s) is down-regulated, wherein said method comprises introducing in said cells siRNA(s) directed against said target gene(s).

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said antigen presenting cells are dendritic cells or precursors thereof.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~any of claims 1 or 2~~ claim 1, wherein at least one of said target gene(s) is selected ~~among~~ from the group consisting of:

- a gene encoding the p50 subunit of NF- κ B;
- a gene encoding TNF-receptor associated factor 3; and
- a gene encoding the c-Rel subunit of NF- κ B.

4. (Currently Amended) A siRNA directed against a target gene selected ~~among~~ from the group consisting of:

- a gene encoding the p50 subunit of NF- κ B;
- a gene encoding TNF-receptor associated ~~factor 3~~ factor 3; and
- a gene encoding the c-Rel subunit of NF- κ B.

5. (Original) An expression vector containing a DNA template for a siRNA of claim 4.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~The use of~~ An immunosuppressive therapeutic composition comprising a siRNA of claim 4 or an expression vector of claim 5 for preparing an immunosuppressive therapeutic composition.

7. (Currently Amended) An antigen-presenting cell obtainable by the method of ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1.

8. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an antigen-presenting cell of claim 7.

9. (Original) A method to produce T lymphocytes that fail to produce IFN-gamma, wherein said method comprises inducing activation of naïve T cells by co-cultivating said T cells with antigen presenting cells of claim 7, containing siRNA directed against a gene encoding p50.

10. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition ~~of claim 6~~ comprising activated T lymphocytes obtainable by the method of ~~claim 7~~ claim 1.

11. (New) An immunosuppressive therapeutic composition comprising an expression vector of claim 5.